

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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I N S I D E

Around the CNMI

Around the CNMI

‘Parts needed by CUC available on eBay’



AIRPORT DRILL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Police and Kosrae International Airport officers performed immediate response techniques during its three-day full-scale airport drill on May 20 as part of the Federal Aviation Administration-Pacific program. The training was jointly coordinated by FAA officials Barry Bayer, Honolulu Fire Transportation officer Ron Simpson and CPA-ARFF chief Stanley Torres Jr.

60th anniversary committee tags 17 tour sites, 7 historical markers

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

The Committee for the 60th Anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian has identified 17 coach tour sites and five historical markers that need sprucing up in preparation for the month-long celebration of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

Beautification Committee chair Cynthia Martin said businesses and resident owners are invited to help government efforts in keeping the islands clean for the commemoration event.

The Saipan cleanup is an ongoing project of the government but efforts are now being directed toward cleaning up sites related to the World War II commemoration.

“Saipan needs all the residents’ continuing efforts to keep the island clean and beautiful. While the 60th anniversary celebration events begin officially on June 12, the first cruise ship and visitors will arrive on June 5,” said Martin.

She added that special tours are planned for visitors, including returning veterans and their families. “Businesses and homes on any of these routes are especially important to maintain,” she said.

She urged businesses and residences to remove debris from around their property, trim dead limbs from trees, replace broken signs and fences, remove outdated signs from windows, power wash mold on buildings, signs and fences, mow vacant lots and remove cuttings, remove equipment or damaged cars from sight, clean steps and walkways, re-stripe parking areas, paint or replace

damaged garbage containers, and repaint buildings.

The list of tour sites that businesses and resident owners should take particular concern are areas near the old Japanese hospital, the Sugar King Park, Old Japanese jail, bunker/ Japanese tanks, Japanese bunker, Sugar Dock, Japanese air raid shelter, fuel storage bunkers, As Lito Airfield complex, 27th Infantry, 73rd bomb wing memorial, Hill 500, Susupe Lake area, Kannat Tabla Japanese cannon, U.S. bomb storage bunker, Banzai Cliff, Japanese Last Command Post, Japanese Peace Memorial, Okinawan Peace Memorial, Korean Peace Memorial, and the Suicide Cliff.

Historical markers can be found at the Banzai Cliff, Mount Tapochao, As Lito Airfield complex, Quarter Master Beach Park, Chalan Kanoa Cathedral, and Afetna Beach Park.

Also, the Historical Preservation Office disclosed Friday that it would start the American Memorial Park’s Wayside Exhibit Panels.

According to Genevieve Cabrera, the project was an offshoot of the park’s Visitors Center Exhibit Design Project.

“It incorporates panel narrative [with photographs] at twelve key World War II sites on Saipan. The subcommittee that worked on this project had requested that additional panels be placed on Tinian, but because of budget and time constraints, only the twelve panels for Saipan were selected for completion prior to the 60th Anniversary of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian. The Tinian panels would be installed at a later time,” said Cabrera.

The committee would be

meeting at Mt. Tapotchao on Tuesday at 10am. Presently, there are five panels altogether at the peak —four at the southernmost periphery and one near the statue of Christ.

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Major businesses in the Commonwealth have sounded the alarm on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s inability to provide sufficient power supply due to non-performing power plants in Lower Base.

Legislators also disclosed that power outages are likely to happen all the more now that CUC officials revealed that parts needed for the repair of two Power Plant 2 engines in Lower Base have yet to arrive.

During Friday’s hearing at the House chamber CUC officials said the parts for the power engines are still being manufactured and there is no definite date yet as to when it would arrive on island.

But immediate inquiry made by the Legislature disclosed that the parts—which CUC claimed are designed to be manufactured upon order—are sold over the Internet on eBay at \$200,000 apiece.

“CUC officials said that manufacturers would make the parts when they place the order

and it is still being manufactured. But legislative staffers checked the Internet and found the exact item on eBay. The item is sold at \$200,000. They should check eBay” said a House official Friday.

The oversight hearing was called by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication, which is chaired by Rep. Timothy Villagomez, a former CUC executive director.

Also, PUTC officials and members were surprised that the two power plants at Lower Base are up to be decommissioned within the year and are up for privatization.

“Are you saying that the CUC board has already approved to go ahead with the privatization of the power plants?” asked Rep. Arnold Palacios repeatedly during the hearing.

Majority of the CUC board voted to pursue the privatization since summer 2003. CUC board chairman Herman P. Sablan said that CUC is tapping the expertise of Harris Group consultancy on the project.

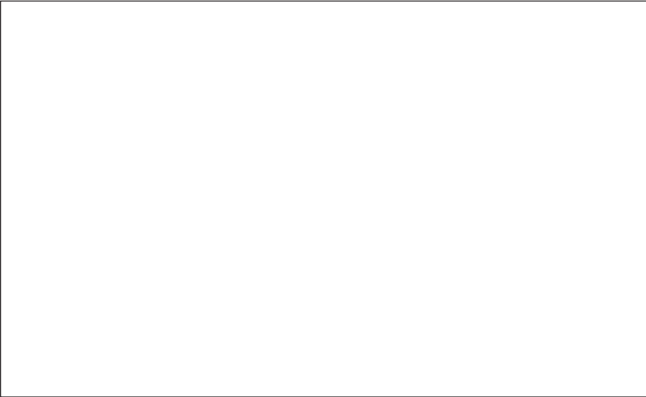
He said the consultant has

completed the scope of work for the project’s Request for Proposal. At this time, Harris Group is looking at the project’s pre-qualification bid.

According to CUC, there is no power crisis but of its four power plants—two in Lower Base, one in Isley Field, which is not operational; and the Puerto Rico power plant, which is being petitioned by local residents to be relocated due to noise and alleged environmental pollution—only two are working. The power plants 1 and 2 are up for privatization.


mcdo


WEATHER FORECAST





PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.


 **SAIPAN AND TINIAN**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.


 **GUAM AND ROTA**
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.


 **PALAU**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




















 **POHNPEI**
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.

 **YAP AND ULITHI**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.

 **KOSRAE**
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.

 **CHUUK**
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.

 **MAJURO**
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

South Korea comes of age

South Korea's democracy has reached the point at which protests occur at the ballot box rather than in the streets. The country rid itself of rule by generals less than two decades ago, but the calm acceptance of the impeachment of President Roh Moo Hyun and his recent reinstatement demonstrate a reassuring familiarity with rule by law rather than bayonet.

The National Assembly's quarrel with Roh escalated out of all proportion this year and never should have resulted in impeachment.

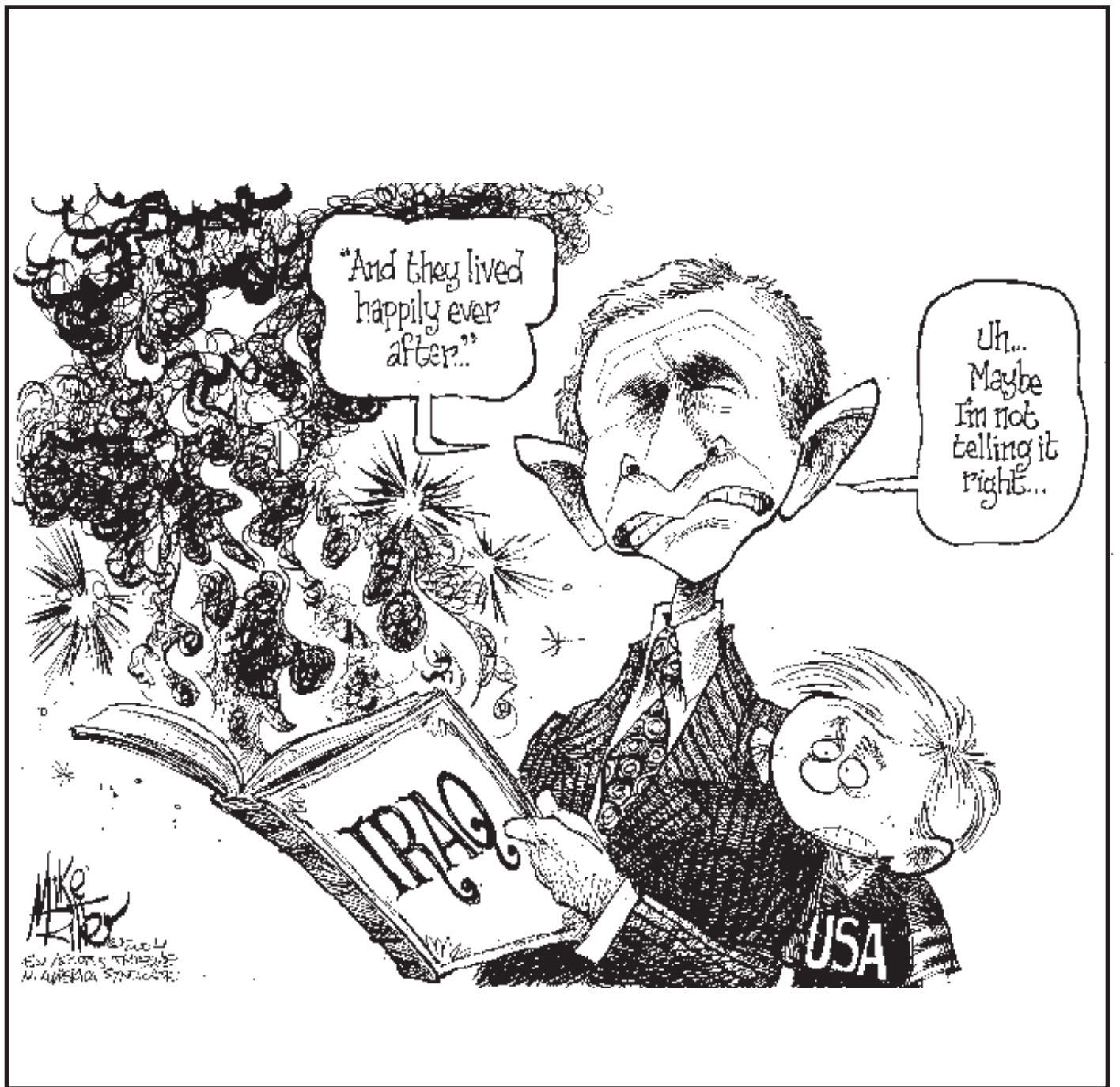
His conservative opponents in the legislature claimed that Roh's remarks in a television interview violated election laws on presidential neutrality. The foes demanded an apology, the president refused and the snowball kept rolling downhill.

After the impeachment forced Roh to let Prime Minister Ko Kon serve as acting president, elections for the National Assembly gave voters a chance for revenge. Roh's supporters won a convincing victory; South Korea will be dominated by leftist parties, for the first time, when the new legislature takes office Tuesday. Little more than a week ago, the Constitutional Court delivered the opinion everyone expected: The impeachment was unjustified.

What's left of the conservative caucus in the legislature will have to find a way to get along with the president if its members want to retain their seats. But Roh should also be more willing to listen to his opponents, especially on the economy. Seoul will need a Plan B if China, South Korea's largest trading partner, follows up on its intention to slow its explosive growth.

Roh has worked to improve relations with Washington and to overcome his pre-presidency reputation as anti-American. Roh took in stride the announcement last week that 3,600 of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea would be transferred to Iraq. South Korea has sent more than 400 army medics and engineers to Iraq, and Roh has promised 3,200 more. How he balances leftist supporters' demands that he not send additional soldiers against conservatives' insistence that he live up to his agreement with the United States may indicate how much of a political lesson impeachment has taught him.

Los Angeles Times



Let's get rid of learning factories

By **HUGH OSBORN** and **MARGARET GAYLE**
Special to The Washington Post

The No Child Left Behind Act may be underfunded, but that is not what is wrong with it. Although it is a well-meaning attempt to bring up the lowest third of our students, its real problem is that it amplifies one of the worst aspects of American education: its mechanical, rote nature.

Early in the last century, foundations set up by industrialists helped design our schools to prepare children for factory lives. Kids were to live by the bell, move through schools as if on conveyor belts and, especially, learn to follow instructions. Then they could work in the rapidly proliferating factories.

But the descendants of these corporate barons have shipped those factories overseas. We have factory-based schools in an Information Age—and no factories. The innovative thinking we need to compete in the global economy is not on the agenda.

This factory-based approach, however, is locked in by political gridlock. The right believes in a back-to-the-basics form of education with strict assessment. The No Child Left Behind Act, for instance, encourages rote learning by aligning highly specified lessons with mechanized tests.

The left, meanwhile, has been open to more enlightened forms of learning, but it also supports the teachers unions, which oppose school choice. The outcome is the worst of both worlds: endless, mechanistic test prep and very limited choice. Our kids are paying the price, as seen in the 30 percent dropout rate.

We can do better than this. Here are five reasonable, common-sense principles on which to rebuild our school system:

□ Engage the students. It is obvious that we learn when interested and motivated, and we don't learn—and are

more likely to drop out—when we are bored. This should shock nobody.

□ Use the power of information technology. Our kids live on technology, which can supply not only the infrastructure for learning but also the spectacular learning techniques developed in the games market. Cognitive researchers are finding that games have become intense learning systems that don't rely on drilling and testing. Stripped of their violence, they are a central part of the solution.

□ Get our kids into the real world. Activities must be designed that encourage expeditions to museums, libraries, parks and historical sites and get children involved in their communities. Kids must not be slaves to tests or their computer screens.

□ Return to social learning. Teachers in our one-room schoolhouses used older students as assistants with younger kids. It worked. The older children derived a sense of self-worth, importance and belonging. They learned social skills, had the powerful learning experience that teaching provides and made learning look cool to younger kids. It made the school a real community—not an age-segregated aberration—and made teaching extremely effective.

□ Use the free market. Web-based publishers should make Internet learning games available directly to parents at reasonable prices. This partial home schooling provides educational choice without the drastic measures of full home schooling, private school or vouchers.

MIT and other universities are working to evolve our thinking about advanced uses of technology in education. America leads the world in scientific research, technology, entertainment and many other areas. Why can't we lead in education?

Osborn is an educational consultant; Gayle is executive director of the American Association for Gifted Children at Duke University.

Letters to the Editor

Saipan Tribune welcomes contributions. All letters intended for publication must include the writer's name, address and, if possible, fax or telephone number. Letters are edited for space, clarity and fairness.

I beg to differ

I am responding to a letter in your Saturday edition, May 29, 2004, written by Mr. John S. Del Rosario, Jr. I feel that Mr. Del Rosario needs to rethink his facts a little. First, Environmental Impact Statements are not made until after a lease or permit is approved. Why would an investor spend tens of thousands of dollars or more (more likely 100's of thousands for a Pagan mining project) on an EIS before they have approval to do the project? If you look at the hotels that were built on public land, each did the required EIS after they had the lease and not before.

Now what is the real purpose of the EIS? It is to help the government agencies, which do environmental regulation, and the developer to make an informed decision on how to proceed with a project with minimum damage to the environment. Almost all projects have a negative impact on the environment and the species that naturally occur there. The purpose of the EIC is to help minimize this impact.

Second, will you quit comparing the mining of Pagan with the mining of phosphate on Nauru. These are different islands with different geology and ecology. Nauru is a raised limestone island, while Pagan is a highly volcanic island. After a volcanic eruption, it can take a succession of hundreds to thousands of years for the climax community to return to the disrupted area. This is what is currently happening on the area around Pagan volcano. I have been to Pagan in 1993, and I know what the area they want to mine looks like. There are no forests there. So mining will not disrupt the natural forest, unlike on Nauru, because there are really none or very little in the area to be mined.

Now to your last question, how to guarantee restoration of Pagan and who will regulate it? This can be built into the contract with Azmar. The contract could be written in a way that would require Azmar to pay for monthly or quarterly inspections by a representative from Department of Lands and Natural Resources or Coastal Resource Management. Second they could be required to hire a full time employee, trained in restoration methods for mined areas, to grow the required plants on site and to manage the restoration. Finally, Azmar can be required to set up a trust fund that would be for the environmental restoration of Pagan. This fund could also help to pay for the inspections and the restoration export.

Finally, we in the CNMI need to look for other funding sources. The Pagan mining project is an excellent one. We the people of the CNMI risk little in developing it and have a chance to make large financial gains. It must be remembered that the textile industry will be closing soon because of the lifting of tariffs on textiles imported into the United States in the very near future. We need to seriously look for other sources of revenue and quit being anti-business!

Howard Cole

Tinian, Marpo Valley

Saipan Tribune

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By RUTH L. TIGHE

In last week's column, I wrote that House Bill 14-42—Rep. Ray A.N. Yumul's "Alien Workers Act for 2004"—seemed to be anti-business, since it would require nonresident workers to return to their point of origin after their contract expired, thus forcing employers to go through all the expense of bringing in a new worker just to renew a contract.

But a reader noted that the bill is also employee-unfriendly. The reader wrote: "Banning transfers has the net effect of making these people indentured servants to their employer. When you or I are treated unfairly, we look for a new job, file a lawsuit or grievance, or something to that nature." How can someone from the Philippines do this, the reader asked, if transfers are not allowed, and workers must leave the CNMI at the end of their contract? "They can't afford to fly in and out of this place to carry out their claim when they make \$3.05 an hour."

"This bill uses immigration policy to limit lawsuits, and it lets employers abuse employees without the worker being able to change jobs. It is hardly business unfriendly. It keeps the worker in one place unable to shop their services to a better offer," wrote the reader. It is a point well taken.

Thus it would appear the bill is unfriendly to employer and employee both. It seems equally unfriendly to government, inasmuch as the bill runs counter to several provisions of the labor regulation amendments being proposed by the Department of Labor and currently open for public comment. Several sections of the proposed amendments address provisions for transfers; the provisions for contract renewal are based on the assumption that workers are still on island.

It would appear Yumul's bill was drawn up without any awareness of Department of Labor activities or concerns either. Sort of distressing to think a lawmaker could be so out of touch.

In follow-up to my comments on revenue reporting for the poker industry, I have since learned that government revenue is derived both from the simple existence of the machine—that is, a flat annual fee of \$12,000 per machine (on Tinian and Rota the fee is somewhat less) is paid to the government—and from the moneys paid into the machine. The government "take" on that is 5 percent, in the form of business gross receipts tax—or BGRT.

A reader commented that, in assessing the cost-benefit ratio of poker machines, "While it is easy to calculate the revenues from the taxes assessed on each machine, and the GRT from those businesses, the fact is that almost all the money is from local players. If that money wasn't used to play poker it would have been spent elsewhere in the community. It may be hard to figure out exactly where that money would be re-directed and filtered back to the community but nonetheless it would stay here and be spent here."

"The garment industry revenues, on the other hand, represent money that comes into the CNMI from the outside, a real boon to the local GNP although of course, there are costs to subtract. Although I imagine the benefits outweigh the costs, you are right to ask for a cost-benefit analysis on that," the reader continued.

I've admired stances taken by Senator Pete P. Reyes in the past, but the stance he is taking on the governor's veto of three bills that were allegedly authored by the senator doesn't fall into that category. Frankly, I think the senator, in this case, is paranoid. And conversely, while I haven't supported the governor lately, in this case I do. I think his vetoes eminently logical and sensible.

No one would argue about the provision in Reyes' bill, S.B.14-10, that Martin Luther King day be observed in the CNMI. But there is no good argument for the provision that the observance of President's Day be eliminated to make way for it, as Reyes' bill proposed. Particularly when there is such a much more obvious and appropriate candidate: Columbus Day. Columbus' exploits have little direct bearing on the Marianas, whereas

the values and accomplishments of the first U.S. President, George Washington, and its 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, have a great deal of relevance to the CNMI. This bill was rightly vetoed, and should stay vetoed.

There may be more controversy over Reyes' S.B. 14-11, which provides for DNA testing in paternity suits. The bill was vetoed because no funding was provided in the bill for what is an expensive procedure. The veto strikes me as being fiscally responsible—on a small scale, in the overall scheme of things—but nonetheless an appropriately prudent move. The Senate has over-ridden the governor's veto. Let us hope the House, which must also over-ride the veto, is more fiscally prudent.

The third bill, S.B. 14-13, would restrict the Marianas Visitors Authority from hiring nonresident workers. This too would seem fully deserving of veto. As the MVA becomes more involved with courting Chinese tourists, there is bound to be a need for staff with knowledge of and background in matters Chinese. Once again, the House should refuse to go along with the Senate, which has voted to over-ride the governor's veto.

The governor has many shortcomings but I have a hard time believing that he would be so vindictive as to veto bills solely on the grounds that he disliked their sponsor. In the case of these vetoes, the governor had valid, reasonable, legitimate grounds for his action. The good senator should back off.

Short takes:

Though Hollywood hype is always suspect, its figures appear to show that the movie "Shrek 2" is attracting larger audiences, earning more revenue, than even the most optimistic had hoped for. Why are they surprised? Thanks to good writers, good animators, good artists, and no doubt dozens of other contributing talents, "Shrek 2" out-does its predecessor. It builds on the charm of the first one, and with the introduction of a totally captivating new character, is even more delightful, entertaining, and enjoyable than was the original "Shrek."

The only bad part is that Hollywood might be tempted to create a "Shrek 3", and "4," and "5"—or fatuous imitative features—instead of taking to heart the lesson to which those figures testify: that there is a huge, under-served audience out there (which even says it would go see "Shrek 2" again—as I intend to) that is eager for light-hearted, engaging, high-quality, violence- and smut-free entertainment imbued with positive moral values.

On a sterner note, there is a verse in the gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 18, verse 9, the relevant part of which reads, according to my St. James version, "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee...." Do you suppose that is what our illustrious president had in mind when he said he wanted the notorious Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq destroyed? What earthly good would that do? Will he destroy the others, in Afghanistan, in Cuba, and who knows where else, where abuse has also occurred? The Iraqi, the people of the U.S., the international community, do not need symbolism. What they need is intelligent actions, based on rational, coherent policies.

Speaking of which, what is there about the Washington (D.C.) administration that is so different from the leadership of other countries? According to an article in the International Herald Tribune earlier this week, the U.S. is now proposing to spend between \$10 billion and \$15 billion to create "virtual borders" around its perimeter in an effort to keep presumed "terrorists" out of the country. The project would use networks of databases and biometric sensors at sites where people apply for visas, so that by the time they reach the physical U.S. border, each visitor will already have been screened by a global web of databases.

Even though other countries are bordered by several unfriendly as well as friendly countries—while the continental U.S. is bordered on two sides by vast bodies of water, on its two other sides by friendly Canada and Mexico—one does not hear of plans of their building equivalent barriers. It seems counter-intuitive to spend billions of dollars to wall off U.S. borders instead of using them to build stronger ties with the rest of the world. Is it possible the U.S. could go bankrupt in its zeal to "terror-proof" its borders—an impossible task in any case?

(The writer is a librarian by profession, and a longterm resident of the CNMI. To contact her, send email to <ruth.tighe@saipan.com>)

Gates of hell congested with potential Kerry voters

By JIM SHEA

The Hartford Courant

The Gates of Hell.
Admitting:
Name, last name first, please?
O'Brien, Tim.

Address, city and state?
Colorado Springs, Colorado.
Why have you been referred here?

I'm Catholic and I was planning to vote for John Kerry.

Oh boy, not another one. See that long line over there? Go stand in it. I gotta try to straighten this out.

Rrrrrrring.

Administration, this is Eva, how may I direct your call?

Eva, Adolf down in Admitting.
Mister Fuhrer, Poopsie, it's been ages, how's tricks?

Same old, same old. Look, is the big guy in? We need him to make some decisions. We're

getting all backed up down here.

Gee, I don't know what to tell you. Mr. Lucifer is on a recruiting trip.

Still, he's been gone for weeks.

What can I tell you, hon, he's really impressed with this Donald Rumsfeld guy.

Who isn't down here? But I'm telling you we have a looming bureaucratic nightmare on our hands.

Why don't you tell me what the problem is and I'll pass it on.

OK, well there's this new Catholic bishop out in Colorado Springs, his name is Sheridan. And he's telling his people that if they vote for a politician like Kerry, who supports abortion rights, stem-cell research, euthanasia or same-sex marriage, they can't receive communion.

Let me guess: Kerry supporters are taking communion anyway.

You got it, and now we're running into a big problem when they die.

Which is?

Well, in the past these types of retirees went directly upstairs for review and usually we never saw

them again. But now Peter's got his people turning them away because he doesn't want to upset the clergy any more than he has to these days.

I can understand Peter's position. We have been handling a lot of defrocks the last few years. What I'm not getting is why you don't just process the Kerry referrals and be done with it?

Because we have our standards. Kerry people may be liberals, even look a little French, but they're really aren't hell material.

True, it's not like they're Nader-ites.

Exactly.

You're right, Poopsie, this could become a major headache. What if all the American bishops started doing it? Or what if this Bishop Sheridan decides to tell his people they can't receive communion if they don't vote for President Bush?

Isn't that what he's doing?

You know, let me see if I can get Mr. Lucifer on his cell.

Shea is a columnist for The Courant.

Our World At War



Dollars & Sense

CORPORATE*Roundup*



United States





American suspect in Spain blasts profiled

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The first American arrested in the deadly train bombing in Madrid is a former Army lieutenant and a convert to Islam who lives in a nondescript suburban home and faithfully attends a nearby mosque.

Family members say Brandon Mayfield is innocent and has never even been to Spain. But law enforcement officials there said Friday that his fingerprints had been found on bags containing detonators of the kind used in the March 11 attack, which killed 191 people and injured 2,000 others.

He is being held as a material witness, which allows the government to detain him without filing formal charges, to allow time for further investigation.

“I think it’s crazy—we haven’t been outside the country for 10 years,” said his wife, Mona. “They found only a part of one fingerprint. It could be anybody. He was in the Army and they’re just trying to fit a certain profile.”

Mayfield, 37, is an attorney who took low-income immigration and family-law clients at his practice in suburban Portland, once representing Muslim terrorism suspect Jeffrey Battle in a child custody case.

Battle was among six Portland-area residents who were sentenced last year on charges of conspiring to wage war against the United States by helping al-Qaida and the former Taliban rulers of Afghanistan.



Mayfield

Mayfield was born in Oregon and grew up in Halstead, Kan., a small farming town about 30 miles northwest of Wichita. He joined the Army right out of high school and was stationed in Germany among other places. He later earned a law degree and settled down in Portland, where he and his Egyptian-born wife have three children.

“He has always been a delight,” said his stepmother, Ruth Alexander of Halstead, recalling a compassionate child who once kept a pet grasshopper. “This is positively unbelievable. He was never in any trouble growing up.”

Mayfield met his wife on a blind date in 1987 while stationed at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. Records from Washoe County, Nev., show the two were married in 1988. Their children are ages 10, 12 and 15.

Their youngest was born on the Bitburg air base in western Germany, where Mayfield was stationed in the air defense unit. Mona Mayfield, 35, said her husband’s only trip to the Middle East was in 1993, when the couple and their children took a 30-day leave to travel to Egypt.

Mayfield was honorably discharged in 1994, after a shoulder injury. He attended Lewis & Clark law school in Portland for a semester, and received his degree from Washburn University in Kansas. He passed the Oregon bar in 2000.

OB/LIZAMA

Methodists endorse church unity after rift

PITTSBURGH (AP)—United Methodists hugged and wept as they overwhelmingly endorsed church unity Friday, a day after a rift over homosexuality broke wide open with an evangelical proposal to split the denomination.

Choking back emotions, delegates spoke in support of the unity resolution at the end of their national policy meeting, which is held once every four years. The measure passed 869-41, with eight abstentions.

“Our denomination was very clear today. We are going to continue as the United Methodist Church as we know it,” said the Rev. John Schol of West Chester, Pa., who organized a group to draft the resolution. “I think we’ll come back in four years a stronger denomination.”

On Thursday, the Rev. William Hinson, a prominent Methodist pastor and president of the conservative Confessing Movement, startled many General Conference participants by announcing he could no longer endure the

dispute over homosexuality that has dragged on since 1972.

He said he had concluded that opposing sides in the debate could never reconcile their views on what the Bible says about gays, so they should divide up the church. The 8.3 million-member denomination is the third-largest in the country.

Hinson said he did not interpret Friday’s vote as a repudiation. Conservative leaders plan to spend the next four years building support among local congregations for a schism.

“I know unity is important, but someone said if you sacrifice truth on the altar of unity you lose both,” Hinson said.

Several hundred evangelical delegates, who had gathered for their daily breakfast strategy session, gave Hinson a standing ovation Friday when he rose to address them. Scott Field, legislative coordinator for a coalition of evangelicals, said they had been flooded with “thumbs-up e-mails and phone calls” in response to the pastor’s speech.

PETE A

Life & Style

Dollars & Sense

United States

Life & Style

Exhibit on Russian czar opens in NM

By DEBORAH BAKER
AP WRITER

The handsome, bearded young man in the outsized oil painting stands tall in his blue military uniform, sword hanging at his side. He looks—well, royal.

Meet Nicholas II, last czar of Russia, subject of a new show that offers a glimpse of the Romanov royal family as they relaxed. “Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home With the Last Tsar and His Family” opens Saturday at the state-run Museum of Fine Arts.

“This is a very personal exhibition,” Marilyn Pfeifer Swezey, the curator who selected the more than 250 items, said.

While much has been done on the royal couple, “no one has ever done an exhibition that’s gone behind the scenes, behind the official facade of the Russian imperial court, to take a look at their family life, how they really lived in the Alexander Palace,” Swezey said.

The palace near St. Petersburg was the favorite residence of the czar and czarina and their five children, who were exiled to Siberia in 1917 during the revolution and murdered there the following year.

The show features black and white images from the family photo albums: Nicholas canoeing, his son Alexei at his desk with his tutor, the Grand Duchess Olga on her 16th birthday, the empress aboard the imperial yacht with her panoramic camera.

There are even home movies, mostly footage of the children taken by the czar, an avid photographer.

The items on display—cigarette cases, clothing, cuff links, chintz samples—were culled from five museums in Russia and from private collections.

The Santa Fe showing is the world premiere of the exhibit, which runs through Sept. 5 before traveling to Cincinnati and Newark, N.J., before being disassembled next year.

“It is a very unique exhibition,” said Alexander Potemkin, executive director of the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation, which organized it. Potemkin said that the show draws from collections in both Russia and the United States.

“Even Russians would be unable to see everything here assembled in one place,” Potemkin said.

After 1918, the family wing of the palace was open as a museum, with everything exactly as it was when the Romanovs lived there, according

to Swezey. With the advance of German troops in 1941, the family’s furnishings and possessions were hurriedly removed.

“We have brought together these things that have been scattered all over Russia since 1941,” Swezey said.

The groupings in the exhibition represent the rooms in the private quarters of the Alexander Palace, including the Mauve Room. (The czarina helped popularize the silvery shade of purple.)

“This was the empress’s retreat. It was her room,” Swezey said. “Here the family would gather daily. Here she’d play the piano. The children would come; the czar would come for tea.”

Items from the room include an ivory-colored Hepplewhite desk with a brown leather top that was made just after their marriage in 1895, and salvaged from a trench where it had been discarded in 1941.

The Mauve Room also contained another highlight of the exhibit: the Faberge “Lilies of the Valley Basket” made of gold, silver, pearls, diamond and nephrite that was a favorite of the empress.

Alexei’s silver cloth and gold brocade christening gown is on display; so is Alexandra’s baptiste and satin apron with a deep pocket across the front.

“She used to sell her own embroidery and handiwork at charity bazaars, and the proceeds she collected were put in this apron,” Swezey explained.

There is also a lace coverlet used on the Romanovs’ bed, which was actually twin beds pushed together.

“Unlike many royal couples, they slept together,” the curator said.

And there are toys and letters and Christmas cards and journals and books and watercolors and poems from the children to their mother.

Larisa Gordon, who is from Stavropol and now lives in Santa Fe, was a translator for the Russian museum curators who helped set up the exhibit. She said it was an honor to be involved.

“This is our culture. ... I’m kind of like touching history a little bit here,” said Gordon, a pianist who teaches Russian classical music and works as a skin care therapist.

Museum of Fine Arts Director Marsha Bol said she hopes the unusual exhibit will draw tens of thousands of visitors this summer.

“That’s part of what I think is so much fun. ... Things that belonged to monarchs are not

a part of our history, so they’re kind of foreign, and certainly exotic to us,” Bol said.

Curator Marilyn Pfeifer Swezey stands in front of the Gobelin tapestry “Marie Antoinette with her Children” which is part of the Nicholas and Alexandra exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, N.M., Monday, May 17, 2004.

AP



tribune clasified ad

Radcliffe suspects Harry Potter will die

LONDON (AP)—Harry Potter may never grow up. Daniel Radcliffe, who stars as the daring schoolboy wizard, said Friday that Harry may die in the last book of J.K. Rowling's magical series.

"I'm going to be really unpopular for saying this about Harry, but I've always had the suspicion—with everything that's going on—that he might die," Radcliffe, 14, told a news conference to promote the third film of Rowling's series, "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

Rowling has remained silent

about the fate of Harry in the seventh and final book. But with each new installment, Rowling reveals more connections between the character and his archenemy, the evil wizard Lord Voldemort.

"Harry and Voldemort have the same core in them, we get to see that in the fourth film," Radcliffe said. "The only way Voldemort could die is if Harry dies as well."

Voldemort was responsible for the deaths of Harry's parents and left the young wizard with the distinctive zigzag scar on his forehead.

The pair have similar powers—including their wands and their fluency in Parsel—and Voldemort has been unable to kill Harry.

Rowling has hinted in the past that Harry may not survive. Asked whether she would write books about the character when he reaches adulthood, she replied: "You have to wait and see whether he survives to be a grown-up."

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," now in production, may be the last time fans see Radcliffe in the role of Harry, which has brought him a for-

tune estimated at about \$18 million. He has yet to commit to a fifth film.

"I'm not going to lie and say it will be absolutely easy to see someone else play the part because it will be extremely strange after four films," Radcliffe said. "But if it happens it will be something I will have to get used to. I'm not saying it will happen but it's a possibility."

"The Prisoner of Azkaban" premieres in Britain on Sunday and goes into general release the following day. The film will open in the United States on June 4.



The young stars, from left to right; Daniel Radcliffe, Emily Watson and Rupert Grint, pose for photographers during a photocall to promote their new Harry Potter movie "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" at The Gladstone Library in central London Thursday.



Caravaggio's masterpiece "Supper at Emmaus," from 1601, is the culminating work of "Painters of Reality, The Legacy of Leonardo and Caravaggio in Lombardy," an exhibit which opened Thursday, May 27, 2004, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York.

AP

Met features Caravaggio masterpieces

NEW YORK (AP)—Christ's right hand appears to float above the supper table, his plump face cast downward in a blessing; a pilgrim thrusts his arms outward, fingers trembling in religious awe.

The shadows and highlights of chiaroscuro add depth to the four diners, heightening 3-D effects in Caravaggio's masterpiece.

"Supper at Emmaus," a boundary-breaking oil from 1601 depicting a biblical scene using temporal models, is the culminating work of "Painters of Reality, The Legacy of Leonardo and Caravaggio in Lombardy." The survey of the north Italian school opened Thursday at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The exhibition encompasses more than 80 paintings and 40 drawings from the late 15th century to the 18th century, documenting the Lombard School's emphasis on portraying the natural world with more realism than what is found in much of mannerist Italian Renaissance art.

Leonardo da Vinci's two sojourns (1481-1499 and 1508-1513) in Milan, where he completed the "Last Supper," provide a benchmark for the

exhibit. Leonardo's emphasis on precise rendering of nature inspired many Lombard artists, including Caravaggio, who was born some 50 years after Leonardo's death in 1519.

Leonardo, who hailed from Tuscany, is represented with eight drawings in either chalk or pen and ink—studies of plants and fruits, a bear walking and three human faces.

Notable Lombard artists in the show include Lorenzo Lotto, Giovanni Girolamo Savoldo, Giacomo Ceruti, Moretto da Brescia, Giuseppe Arcimboldi, and women artists Sofonisba Anguissola and Fede Galizia.

Caravaggio is the true star, with six oils on display.

His naturalism appealed to the senses, making him an early exponent of the emerging Baroque style. His distinctive atmospherics come from light sources overhead and dark tones. He relied on studio models or worked with mirrors to paint himself in pictures.

On loan from the National Gallery, London, the 4-1/2-foot by 6-1/2-foot "Supper at Emmaus" underlines Caravaggio's break with conventions of the Renaissance. Christ is "pro-

vocatively shown" with luxurious curls, sensually thick lips and full, beardless cheeks, the exhibition catalog notes. "Caravaggio was knowingly inviting censure."

"Youth as Bacchus," a self-portrait from 1593 on loan from the Galleria Borghese in Rome, is included in the show. A later, more sensual version of "Young Bacchus," at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, may be his most copied work in modern times.

Also shown are: "The Cardsharps" (1595) from the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas; "The Lute Player" (1597-98), from a private collection; "Saint Francis" (1606-07), from the museum of Cremona, Italy; and "The Toothpuller" (1608-09), from the Pitti Palace gallery of Florence.

A rebellious figure in a turbulent era, Michaelangelo Merisi was born in 1571 in either Milan or Caravaggio, the Lombardy hill town from which he took his professional name. He showed early talent and his mother sold family property in Caravaggio to finance his four-year apprenticeship with Simone Peterzano in Milan.

Caravaggio went to Rome in 1593, supporting himself mea-

gerly with still-life paintings sold through various studios. An agent brought his work to the attention of Cardinal Francesco del Monte, who became his first patron.

Caravaggio got his first big commission around 1600 to decorate the Contarelli Chapel in Rome with three scenes of the life of Saint Matthew. Then followed the "Conversion of Saint Paul" and the "Crucifixion of Saint Peter" for Santa Maria del Popolo in Rome.

Religious themes dominated his mature work. But his erratic private life brought repeated brushes with the law. He had to flee Rome in 1606 when charged with murder during a fight involving a tennis match.

Caravaggio found refuge in Naples, then went to Malta where he was jailed again, but he managed to escape to Sicily. He left significant works in all these locations, including the "Burial of Saint Lucy" (1608) and the "Raising of Lazarus" (1609) in Messina. He died of a fever in Port Ercole, Tuscany, in 1610.

The Met is the only stop for "Painters of Reality," which closes Aug. 15.

Investigators probe Hoffa disappearance

By BREE FOWLER
AP WRITER

DETROIT (AP)—Investigators looking into the 1975 disappearance of Teamsters boss Jimmy Hoffa ripped up floorboards Friday in a Detroit house where traces of blood were uncovered by the Fox News Channel.

According to an upcoming book, a now-dead Pennsylvania Teamster official named Frank Sheeran claimed to have shot Hoffa inside the home in 1975. Fox sent experts to the house in March.

On Friday, police and forensic investigators hauled away seven or eight foot-long pieces of wood floor and prepared it for FBI analysis, Oakland County Prosecutor David Gorceyca said.

Gorceyca said his team's chemical tests were inconclusive, and he is "a little skeptical that we'll find anything of evidentiary value."

But he said: "If we can find sufficient DNA to analyze, and it matches Hoffa, then it would lend a tremendous amount of credibility to Sheeran's story."

He said the FBI analysis could take weeks. If there's not enough DNA, or if it doesn't match, "then we still have a big mystery on our hands," Gorceyca said.

Those now living in the home are "just unknowing homeowners" and have no connection to the case, the prosecutor said.

The book, "I Heard You Paint Houses," published by a division of Random House, was to be released Tuesday but went on sale Friday. It was written by Charles Brandt, a former prosecutor in Delaware. Sheeran died last year in a nursing home.

The FBI said in March that it was investigating a second purported deathbed confession by Sheeran in which he said he flew to Pontiac in a small

plane on the day Hoffa disappeared, picked up Hoffa's body from the killers and drove it to a Hamtramck trash incinerator, where it was burned.

Sheeran's daughter said she believed the handwritten confession was a forgery created by her father's biographer, John Zeitts, to upstage Brandt's book.

Hoffa disappeared from the parking lot of a restaurant in suburban Detroit while on his way to a meeting with Anthony Provenzano, a New Jersey Teamsters boss, and Anthony Giacalone, a Detroit mobster.

Investigators believe Provenzano and Giacalone had Hoffa killed to prevent him from regaining the union presidency. Hoffa was legally declared dead in 1982.

Theories about where he is buried are varied and include reports he is entombed under Giants Stadium in New Jersey. In July, authorities dug up a backyard swimming pool in Michigan in an unsuccessful search for clues.

"The Hoffa family is declining to comment on anything concerning their father until the case is resolved by a law enforcement agency," Teamsters spokesman Galen Munroe said. Hoffa's son, James P. Hoffa, has been president of the union since 1999.

In the latest twist, Gorceyca said two retired Michigan state police officers brought in by Fox News tested floorboards in the Detroit home with Luminol, a chemical that illuminates the presence of bloodstains.

The prosecutor in charge of the case did not learn of the investigation or possible new evidence until the TV crew came to interview him about a week ago, Gorceyca said.

"We're disturbed that we weren't the first at the scene and the first to conduct testing at the scene. Every time Luminol is used, DNA is lost," Gorceyca said.

'Idol' Fantasia Barrino to record single

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
AP WRITER

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Fantasia Barrino, the newly crowned "American Idol," says her greatest desire now is to simply get a good night's sleep.

After the adrenaline rush of the show and the media blitz after her big win, Barrino said Friday she needs a little rest. Once that's out of the way, the 19-year-old plans to hit the studio to record her first single, "I Believe," and start working on her debut album.

"It's gonna be hot," she promised in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

Barrino said she hopes her first album will showcase all types of music and is looking forward to writing some of her own material.

"I always said I have a story to tell, and now I can do it through

my music," Barrino said.

That story includes coping with teenage motherhood and learning to provide for her 2-year-old daughter, Zion.

After winning the "Idol" title on live national television Wednesday, Barrino made brief appearances at post-finale parties, but said she was soon back on "mommy duty," and watched "Shrek" with her daughter.

Barrino also said she doesn't speak much with Zion's father: "I don't bother him, and he doesn't bother me."

And just how did Barrino resist the standard "Idol" makeover, like the ones underwent by last year's finalists, Clay Aiken and Ruben Studdard?

"I just always tried to be myself," she said.

Barrino will go on the road with the 11 other finalists for "American Idol Live," starting July 14 in Salt Lake City.



American Idol finalist Fantasia Barrino performs during the finale of the music competition show Tuesday, May 25, 2004, at the Kodak Theatre in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

AP

Brothers Gibb say the Bee Gees are done

LONDON (AP)—Barry and Robin Gibb, who went to Buckingham Palace to be honored Thursday, said the Bee Gees died with their brother, Maurice.

During an emotional ceremony, Prince Charles made the brothers Commanders of the Order of the British Empire, or CBE. Maurice's son, Adam, received the award on his father's behalf.

"It's bittersweet. It would have been wonderful for all three of us to be here," Barry Gibb, 57, said afterward. "We have mixed feelings. Knowing Mo, this would have been right up his alley. He would have still had his hat on," a reference to Maurice Gibb's beloved black trilby.

Gibb said the Bee Gees are now a thing of the past. "We are not the Bee Gees now, in respect for Mo," he said. "Maybe the time's just right for a bit of free flight. Maybe at some point we will do something together."

Adam Gibb, a 28-year-old film student, looked close to tears after collecting his father's award.

"My mother was supposed to do it, but she wouldn't have been able to" because of the emotion, he said. Maurice Gibb's widow, Yvonne, watched from the audience.

Born on the Isle of Man, the Gibb brothers moved to Manchester in the 1950s. Their '70s disco hits included "Stayin' Alive" and "Night Fever."

Maurice Gibb died last year at age 53. He suffered a heart attack before undergoing emergency surgery in Miami for an intestinal blockage.

Barbra Streisand must pay \$177,000

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Barbra Streisand must pay \$177,000 in legal fees incurred by an amateur photographer who fended off a \$10 million lawsuit over aerial photographs he took showing her Malibu estate.

Streisand's lawsuit against retired software entrepreneur Kenneth Adelman claimed the photos showed details of her estate that can't be

seen from the street. She alleged they could increase a problem she already has with stalkers.

Adelman said he posted the photos as part of his scientific research on coastline conservation. He has posted more than 12,000 photos on his California Coastal Records Project Web site.

The Web site "is not about Streisand," Adelman said



Streisand

Thursday. "It's about the California coast, and she happens to have a very, very small part about it."

Superior Court Judge Allan J. Goodman ordered Streisand to pay Adelman's lawyer fees when the judge dismissed the lawsuit in December.

The two sides couldn't agree on the amount, so the judge ordered Streisand to pay an additional \$15,000 to cover the costs Adelman incurred by returning to court during the negotiations.

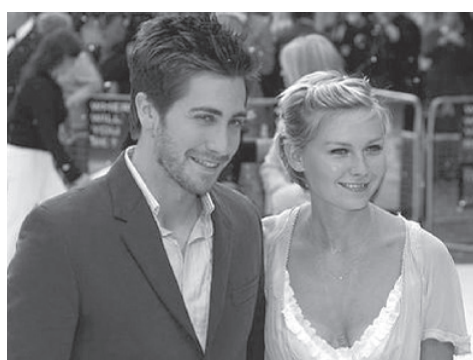
'Day After Tomorrow' premieres in Europe

LONDON (AP)—Fans were entertained by fake snow outside the theater at the European premiere of "The Day After Tomorrow," writer-director Roland Emmerich's film about global warming.

Among those attending Wednesday night's event at the Vue West End theater in central London were Emmerich, co-stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Emmy Rossum, and Gyllenhaal's actress-girlfriend, Kirsten Dunst.

Emmerich said he won't be making any more disaster movies now that his resume includes "The Day After Tomorrow," "Godzilla" and "Independence Day."

"I know this will be my last disaster movie. I am so happy



Jake Gyllenhaal, one of the stars of "The Day After Tomorrow," arrives at the European premiere of the movie with his girlfriend actress Kirsten Dunst, in London, Wednesday May 26, 2004.

AP

that people seem to like the movie, but also that they take something out of it," he said. "This one I think you can really come out and discuss it with friends and say, 'Well, we have to do something or someday something like this could happen.'"

Gyllenhaal, whose films include "Donnie Darko" and "The Good Girl," said he didn't regret starring in the disaster movie.

"I might have lost street cred, but I am going to get it back after they see the movie," the 23-year-old actor said.

Filmmaker Moore says he has Berg footage

NEW YORK (AP)—Filmmaker Michael Moore, whose incendiary new documentary lambastes President Bush's handling of the war, said Thursday that he has footage unused in the film of Nicholas Berg, the American civilian later beheaded in Iraq.

The footage, of an interview with Berg, "is approximately 20 minutes long. We are not releasing it to the media," Moore said in a statement. "It is not in the

film. We are dealing privately with the family."

Neither Moore nor his representatives would describe the nature or contents of the interview with Berg, who held staunch pro-war views.

No one answered the phone Thursday at the home of Berg's parents in West Chester, Pa.

"Fahrenheit 9/11," which recently won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival, accuses

the Bush camp of stealing the 2000 election, overlooking terrorism warnings before Sept. 11, 2001, and fanning fears of more attacks to secure American support for the Iraq war.

Moore's assault on U.S. policy got him into trouble with Disney, which refused to let subsidiary Miramax release "Fahrenheit 9/11." He is still trying to work out a deal for U.S. distribution.

Woman regrets throwing away her chance for lifelong love

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I married young. We had four children who are now grown. I went through a mid-life crisis in my 30s and ran around doing whatever I wanted with whomever I wanted. My husband, "Louie," begged me to stop, but I didn't. So Louie divorced me and married a woman I'll call Melody.



Dear Abby

It's been eight years since the divorce. Louie has told my mother and our children that he still loves me and will till the day he dies. I feel the same way about Louie, but I will not go back with him.

Why? Because when my car broke down, it was Melody who picked me up. When I was sick, Melody brought me my meals. She is a sweet, caring woman who wouldn't hurt a fly, and I cannot cause her pain she doesn't deserve.

The moral: If you have someone who loves you, do not throw it away. Love is a rare and precious thing that doesn't come along all that often.

SADDER BUT WISER

DEAR SADDER: That's true. However, you'll be a lot happier if you stop looking backward. You have matured emotionally since your 30s. You have also learned important lessons about life. Stop dwelling on the past and focus your energies on looking ahead. If you do, it is possible that you'll meet someone and be able to rebuild your life.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend introduced me to a guy about a year ago. "Arthur" was two months out of a three-year relationship. I was leery about getting involved with him, but he was the sweetest, most attractive guy I'd met in years.

Arthur called when he said he would, brought me flowers on every date, and I could discuss anything with him. I've never had such a perfect balance of physical and emotional stability in a relationship.

After two months, Arthur told me he wasn't sure he should be with me because he still wasn't over his ex-girlfriend. He said he was falling in love with me and it scared him. I was hurt and upset. He cried and begged me not to hate him.

I didn't see Arthur for six months. I ran into him last week and we started talking again. Arthur wants to start seeing me again, but I'm afraid I'll end up getting hurt. I want to be with him, but I don't want him to break my heart. What should I do?

AFRAID OF GETTING HURT AGAIN

DEAR AFRAID: You say it has been six months? He may have gotten his former girlfriend out of his system by now. Take it slowly. Give him a chance, but be cautious. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

DEAR ABBY: I don't know who to talk about this with, so I'm coming to you. I'm in foster care and living with a nice, loving family. I'll have a new sister because they are adopting me. She is always asking, "Where is your mom?" I always say, "I don't know where my mom went," but I have this weird feeling in my stomach that she doesn't want me to be part of her family.

Part of me thinks she is getting used to the idea that she's getting an older sister, but I don't know if I am picking the right family to live with for the rest of my life. Please help me.

WORRIED IN NEW YORK

DEAR WORRIED: Tell your foster parents what you are feeling. It is possible that they need to reassure their daughter, who may be feeling some sibling rivalry. Counseling could also be helpful in putting your fears to rest. Talk to the social worker who is handling the adoption. He or she can see that you get it. I wish you the best of luck and a happy future.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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Pacers rip Pistons 83-68 to even series

By **CHRIS SHERIDAN**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



AUBURN HILLS, Mich.

(AP)—The Indiana Pacers evened the Eastern Conference finals with their best all-around effort of the series Friday night. Austin Croshere made his first start in more than two years and scored 14 points, providing the Pacers with a much-needed extra offensive option in an 83-68 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

Getting off to a rare good start and managing to sustain a respectable shooting percentage, the Pacers evened the series at two games apiece, avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season and regained the homecourt advantage for what's now a best-of-three series.

Coach Rick Carlisle pulled a surprise by turning to Croshere in place of Jeff Foster—a move even more stunning because it was made by a coach whose resistance to change has been cited as one of his negative personality quirks.

Croshere, who averaged five points this season - his sixth in the league - and

hadn't contributed much of anything to the Pacers since the 2000 NBA Finals, ended the first half with a 3-pointer and began the second half with another to put the Pacers ahead 52-39.

Moments later, he was left wide open at the 3-point line. As Pistons fans let out a collective groan, Croshere nailed the shot for a 17-point lead that eventually grew as large as 23.

Detroit fans even booed a bit over the remainder of the third quarter.

The series resumes Sunday in Indianapolis, with Game 6 back in Auburn Hills on Tuesday night.

After struggling to score throughout most of Games 2 and 3, it was a different story for Indiana in Game 4.

Foster had scored just four points in 67 minutes over the first three games in the series. The addition of another outside shooting threat prevented the Pistons from sending extra defenders into the paint, and everyone on the Pacers benefited.

Ron Artest scored 20 points for Indiana, Reggie Miller added 15 and Jermaine O'Neal had 12. Artest also had 10 rebounds and four assists.

After shooting no better than 34

percent in the first three games, Indiana finished at 46 percent.

Artest made four of his first five shots and ended the first quarter with 12 points as Indiana opened a 29-17 lead.

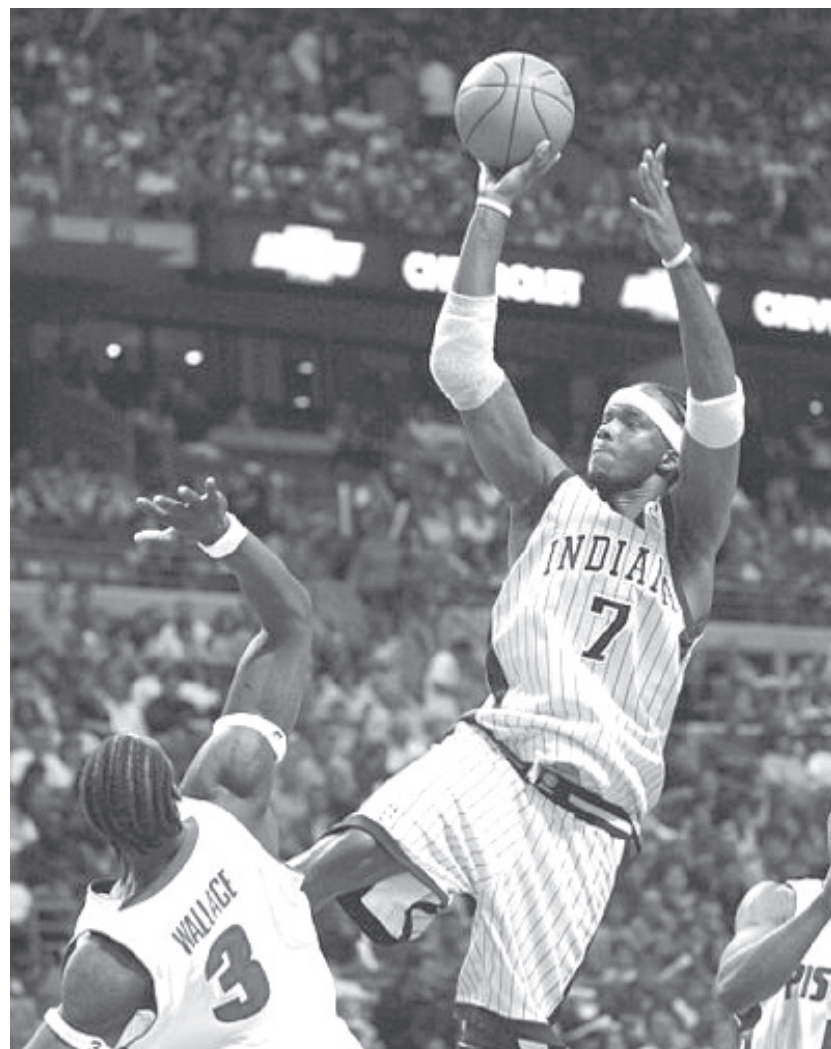
The Pacers got a scare late in the period when O'Neal landed awkwardly while going for a rebound and mildly sprained his left knee. Detroit had a 7-0 run early in the second quarter while O'Neal went to the locker room for a checkup.

He returned less than two minutes into the period and spurred the Pacers to a 6-0 run as the Pistons began getting sloppy with the ball and turning it over.

Croshere's two 3-pointers early in the third quarter helped Indiana get off to a 7-for-9 start while Detroit was going 2-for-15, and the score was 70-50 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Chauncey Billups scored nine straight points to cut Detroit's deficit to 72-61, but Artest answered with consecutive 12-footers from the lane and the Pistons never threatened again.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit with 22 points and Billups had 21.



Indiana Pacers forward Jermaine O'Neal (7) shoots over Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace (3) during the second quarter of their NBA Eastern Conference finals in Auburn Hills, Mich., Friday, May 28, 2004.

Jie makes history at French Open

By **STEVEN WINE**
AP SPORTS WRITER



PARIS (AP)—The first

tennis match Zheng Jie remembers watching on TV back home in China was Steffi Graf against Monica Seles in the French Open. Now Zheng finds herself playing in the same tournament—and in the fourth round. She became the first Chinese woman to advance that far in a Grand Slam event by beating Tathiana Garbin 5-7, 7-6 (1), 6-2 Friday.

The victory was even more impressive because Garbin's previous match was a victory over 2003 champion Justine Henin-Hardenne.

"At the beginning, my goal was to win in the first round, then the second round," Zheng said through a translator. "I never imagined I could win in the third round."

For her success at Roland Garros, Zheng is guaranteed about \$66,600, but most of it will be returned to the Chinese tennis program. She said successful players from China provide financial support for the system that helps them progress.

"The Chinese tennis association spends a lot of money on the players to let them travel abroad," Zheng said. "All the expenses are covered."

The nation is pushing to improve its tennis program before the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, said Zheng, 21. At the moment, China is a land of 1.3 billion people and few tennis courts.

Zheng's victory over Garbin will be good news back home. But big news?

"This is only one match," she said. "I cannot say I'll become a big star. I'll try to play more tournaments. In the future, maybe I can be a star, but not after this match."

A French Open title might do the job. No Chinese woman has won a WTA Tour event, much less a major championship.

Zheng's opponent in the fourth round



Jie Zheng of China thanks the crowd after defeating Tathiana Garbin of Italy in their third round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Friday May 28, 2004.

will be 14th-seeded Paola Suarez.

No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo of France also advanced, beating Arantxa Parra Santonja 6-3, 6-2. On the men's side, the marathon run through the draw by Fabrice Santoro ended when he lost to fellow Frenchman Olivier Mutis 6-0, 6-2, 6-3.

Santoro played the longest match of the Open era in the first round, and his three matches totaled 11 hours, 34 minutes.

Marat Safin closed out a two-day marathon against Felix Mantilla by winning 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 11-9, but was annoyed afterward that he was penalized a point for dropping his shorts early in the fifth set.

"I felt it was a great point for me," the former U.S. Open champion said. "I felt like pulling my pants down. What's bad about it?"

No controversy accompanied Zheng's victory, but she did make history. Li Fang achieved the best previous result by a Chinese woman in a major event, reaching the third round

at the 1992 Australian Open.

Li climbed to 36th in 1998, the highest ranking for a woman from China. Zheng, now ranked 58th, will break into the top 50 in the next rankings.

Zheng is most proud of her two-handed backhand and superior endurance, which she said gave her an edge against Garbin.

"In China, coaches pay more attention to training," Zheng said. "Every afternoon, they have 1 1/2 hours for training. That's why we're in good physical condition."

The 5-foot-4 Zheng hails from Sichuan province, where her father has a restaurant. She's an all-around athlete who plays golf, badminton and table tennis. Her idol growing up was Graf, and her favorite current player is Lindsay Davenport.

"She's very clever," Zheng said.

Zheng and Davenport could meet in the semifinals—a pairing that would surely draw a big TV audience back in China.

Lakers look to finish off Timberwolves

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**
AP SPORTS WRITER

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kevin Garnett knows the Minnesota Timberwolves can play better, that their 18-point Game 2 victory was the largest winning margin in the Western Conference finals.

But the Los Angeles Lakers just don't lose in this situation - needing just one more victory to advance to the NBA finals.

They've won 12 straight when there's a chance to finish a playoff series. With a 3-1 lead, Los Angeles has another opportunity in Game 5 Saturday night in Minnesota.

"It gives us confidence that we're very good at closing teams out," Kobe Bryant said Friday after the Lakers practiced in California. "We're very good at executing, cutting teams up when we have to. ... We take a lot of pride in it. This is the position we want to be in."

The Timberwolves insist they haven't conceded anything.

"We haven't even played really good basketball, haven't put that beautiful game together," Garnett said. "It's not like we're just getting beat down. We're right there, but we just can't get over the hump."

The Lakers won two straight at home this week, including a 92-85 triumph in Game 4 Thursday night. They weren't easy or particularly

dominating, which gives the Wolves hope. Minnesota hopes to use the formula it used to win Game 2 89-71.

"We were really aggressive, and we made those little plays that got us over the hump," swingman Wally Szczerbiak said Friday after a film session. "Hopefully we can do it again."

Though the Lakers have won seven of their last eight games, they're not so far removed from an 0-2 series deficit in the second round against San Antonio - a series that might have been much different if Derek Fisher hadn't made an improbable jumper as time expired to win Game 5.

So despite their workmanlike domination of the conference finals so far, the Lakers still believe they've got much more work to do before they'll be ready to play for their fourth championship in five years.

"We know nothing has really happened yet that we can gloat about," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "I don't think it's going to be an easy task at all to win up in Minnesota."

Still, Jackson wants to finish things now.

"It's a very difficult situation that Minnesota is in," he said. "We've got to keep them in a box and keep them thinking about going home."

Only seven teams have recovered from a 3-1 deficit to win a playoff series, most recently Detroit's victory over Orlando in the Eastern

Mackowiak becomes father, has career day

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.
AP SPORTS WRITER

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Rob Mackowiak sure has a special bedtime story to tell his son. “Obviously, having your first child is a big event in itself,” the Pittsburgh Pirates’ utilityman said. “Then to come back at night and hit a game-winning and a game-tying home run ... well, it’s just hard to describe.”

Eventually, he’ll have to find the right words because this story is sure to be one of Garrett Matthew Mackowiak’s favorites.

On a wild Friday that featured big homers by Barry Bonds and Ken Griffey Jr., Mackowiak stole the headlines.

“It’s just hard to imagine ever having a better day than this,” said Mackowiak, still wearing his hospital bracelet.

Hours after he and wife Jennifer became parents for the first time, Mackowiak hit his first career grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give the Pirates a 9-5 victory over the Chicago Cubs in the first game of a doubleheader.

In the nightcap, Mackowiak’s two-run homer tied it in the ninth before Craig Wilson’s solo shot in the 10th gave the Pirates a 5-4 victory and a doubleheader sweep.

“It was great to see a good friend have his first kid and hit two huge home runs,” Wilson said. “I guess you could say he had a pretty good day, huh?”

About nine hours after his wife gave birth, Mackowiak hit a 2-1 pitch from closer Joe Borowski (2-3) for his ninth homer.

In the nightcap, he entered as a defensive replacement in the seventh inning, and hit the first pitch he saw from LaTroy Hawkins in the ninth to tie it at 4.

“You never expect to do this,” Mackowiak said. “I mean, look at the pitchers the Cubs had—Borowski and Hawkins. They’re two of the best in the league. I don’t know how you ever explain what I did.”

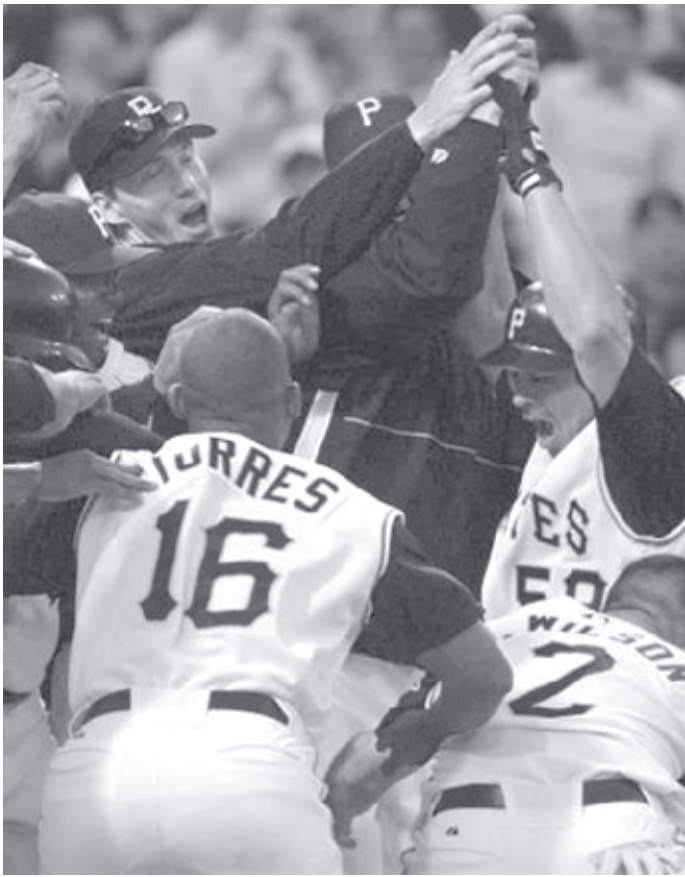
Wilson’s homer off Francis Beltran (1-1) gave the Pirates their first doubleheader sweep since June 18, 2003, against Montreal.

Mike Gonzalez (2-0) pitched a perfect 10th for the Pirates, who are 22-22—the latest in a season they’ve been at .500 since Sept. 1, 1999.

“It breaks your heart,” Chicago manager Dusty Baker said after the Cubs’ fourth straight loss. “The same guy wins it and then ties it up in the second game. I guess it was just his day. It was unbelievable.”

Salomon Torres (3-1) pitched the ninth for the win in the opener.

Also in the first game, Matt Clement became the 21st pitcher in major league history to hit three batters in one inning, and the first Chicago pitcher since Walter Thornton on May 18, 1898.



Pittsburgh Pirates’ Rob Mackowiak, right, is swarmed at home plate by teammates after hitting a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth to beat the Cubs 9-4 in the first game of a doubleheader in Pittsburgh, Friday, May 28, 2004.

Giants 4, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Bonds connected for his 13th homer—and career No. 671—on a pitch from Tim Lincecum. It came after Shawn Chacon (0-2) blew his second save in two nights.

It was Bonds’ 10th career walkoff homer and first since last Aug. 10 against Atlanta. He’s homered three times in four games.

Reds 7, Expos 6

In Montreal, Griffey hit his 493rd homer—a two-run shot off Claudio Vargas (4-2)—and Sean Casey had four hits and three RBIs for Cincinnati.

Cory Lidle (4-4) allowed five hits and five runs in 6 2-3 innings, and Danny Graves pitched a perfect ninth for his major league-leading 22nd save.

Marlins 2, Mets 1

In Miami, Dontrelle Willis (5-3) allowed four hits and one run in seven innings.

The Marlins beat the Mets for the ninth time in their last 11 meetings, dating to last season. Armando Benitez got his 19th save in his first appearance against his former team since they traded him to the New York Yankees last July.

Tom Glavine (6-3) took the loss.

Phillies 3, Braves 2, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Tomas Perez tied it with an RBI double in the eighth and won it with a homer off Antonio Alfonseca (5-1) in the 10th for the Phillies.

Tim Worrell (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings in relief.

Atlanta outfielder Chipper Jones (quadriiceps) and first baseman Adam LaRoche (separated shoulder) were injured in the first

two innings. Jones is day to day, while LaRoche was placed on the 15-day disabled list.

Cardinals 2, Astros 1, 10 innings

In Houston, Ray Lankford scored on a balk by Octavio Dotel (0-3), overshadowing a pitching duel between Roger Clemens and Chris Carpenter.

With Jim Edmonds at the plate, Dotel feined a throw toward the plate and third-base umpire Hunter Wendelstedt ruled it a balk, allowing Lankford to score the winning run.

Jason Isringhausen (3-1) gave up three hits in two innings.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Randy Johnson (6-4) pitched into the seventh, Luis Gonzalez hit a two-run homer and Arizona ended a four-game losing streak.

Wilson Alvarez (2-2) lasted two innings before leaving with a strained left hip.

Padres 5, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Mark Loretta hit a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh, and Brian Lawrence (7-3) tied a career high with 10 strikeouts for San Diego.

Brewers starter Doug Davis (3-4) took the loss.

Yankees 7, Devils Rays 5

In Tampa Bay, Mariano Rivera shrugged off his 300th save. It’s the 30 he has accumulated in the postseason that he’s most proud of.

Rivera became the 17th player to reach the 300-save milestone, closing out the visiting New York Yankees’ victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Blue Jays 5, Rangers 4

In Toronto, Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer in a four-run first, and Ted Lilly (3-2) worked six innings for just the second time this season to lead the Blue Jays to their fourth straight win.

Rod Barajas homered and tied a career high with four RBIs for the Rangers, who ended their string of scoreless innings at 19.

R.A. Dickey (4-5) lost his fourth straight start.

Indians 1, Athletics 0

In Cleveland, Casey Blake hit the third pitch by reliever Jim Mecir (0-4) into the left-field bleachers, giving the Indians a victory.

Jose Jimenez (1-3) pitched a scoreless ninth for his first American League win.

Orioles 7, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Miguel Tejada and Luis Matos homered, and Baltimore snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Orioles starter Eric Dubose (4-3) allowed three runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Jason Johnson (3-6) faced his former team for the first time since leaving as a free agent in the offseason, allowing six runs and eight hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Red Sox 8, Mariners 4

In Boston, Pedro Martinez remained undefeated against Seattle, and David Ortiz’s grand slam capped a five-run fifth for the Red Sox.

Manny Ramirez hit his 13th homer for Boston, which has won eight of 10.

Martinez (5-3) has won all 13 games he’s pitched against the Mariners—he won once in relief—but he gave up four runs Friday night, the most he’s allowed against them.

Boston erased a 4-1 deficit with its five-run fifth off Joel Pineiro (1-6).

Royals 2, Twins 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Tony Graf-fanino beat out an infield single to deep short off Juan Rincon (6-3) with two outs in the ninth, scoring Wilton Guerrero and giving Kansas City a victory.

Jeremy Affeldt (1-3) got the last three outs for his first win since Sept. 22.

White Sox 4, Angels 3

In Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the ninth, giving Chicago its eighth win in 10 games. Konerko also had a two-run homer in the sixth.

Juan Uribe tripled off the center-field wall against Ramon Ortiz (1-4) to start the ninth.

Shingo Takatsu (3-0) pitched the top of the ninth for the victory.

The Angels have lost four straight, all by one run.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA PLAYOFFS					NFL				
Indiana 83, Detroit 68, series tied 2-2					NEW YORK GIANTS-Signed S Brent Alexander. Waived S Ryan Clark.				
MLB STANDINGS					NEW YORK JETS-Signed DE Trevor Johnson.				
AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST DIVISION					PHILADELPHIA EAGLES-Signed QB Jeff Blake to one-year contract.				
	W	L	Pct	G	HOCKEY				
Boston	30	18	.625	-	College				
New York	29	18	.617	1/2	AKRON-Announced the resignation of Deanna Parks, softball coach, and Shelby Howell, assistant softball coach.				
Baltimore	21	23	.477	7	CAL LUTHERAN-Announced the retirement of Nancy Garrison, women's tennis coach.				
Toronto	21	27	.438	9	EARLHAM-Named Andy Hape of offensive line coach.				
Tampa Bay	16	30	.348	13	MINNESOTA-Named Barb Smith women's basketball associate head coach and recruiting coordinator.				
CENTRAL DIVISION					OLIVET-Named Kurt Soderberg men's basketball coach.				
Chicago	28	19	.596	-	ST. NORBERT-Named Tim Bald athletic director.				
Minnesota	26	21	.553	2	STANFORD-Named Charmin Smith assistant coach.				
Detroit	22	25	.468	6					
Cleveland	20	26	.435	7 1/2					
Kansas City	16	29	.356	11					
WEST DIVISION					By The Associated Press				
Anaheim	29	19	.604	-					
Oakland	26	21	.553	2 1/2					
Texas	26	21	.553	2 1/2					
Seattle	17	30	.362	11 1/2					
YESTERDAY'S GAMES									
Toronto 5, Texas 4									
Boston 8, Seattle 4									
Baltimore 7, Detroit 5									
Cleveland 1, Oakland 0									
N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 5									
Chicago White Sox 4, Anaheim 3									
Kansas City 2, Minnesota 1									
NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST DIVISION									
Florida	28	20	.583	-					
Philadelphia	26	20	.565	1					
Atlanta	23	24	.489	4 1/2					
New York	23	24	.489	4 1/2					
Montreal	15	32	.319	12 1/2					
CENTRAL DIVISION									
Cincinnati	28	20	.583	-					
Houston	26	21	.553	1 1/2					
Chicago	25	22	.532	2 1/2					
St. Louis	25	22	.532	2 1/2					
Milwaukee	24	22	.522	3					
Pittsburgh	22	22	.500	4					
WEST DIVISION									
San Diego	27	21	.563	-					
Los Angeles	24	22	.522	2					
San Francisco	23	24	.489	3 1/2					
Colorado	18	29	.383	8 1/2					
Arizona	18	30	.375	9					
YESTERDAY'S GAMES									
Pittsburgh 9, Chicago Cubs 5, 1st game									
Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4, 10 innings, 2nd game									
Cincinnati 7, Montreal 6									
Philadelphia 3, Atlanta 2, 10 innings									
Florida 2, N.Y. Mets 1									
San Diego 5, Milwaukee 3									
St. Louis 2, Houston 1, 10 innings									
Arizona 6, Los Angeles 3									
San Francisco 4, Colorado 2									
SPORTS TRANSACTIONS									
MLB									
KANSAS CITY ROYALS-Activated INF Tony Graffanino from the 15-day DL.									
SEATTLE MARINERS-Designated OF Quinton McCracken for assignment. Called up RHP Clint Nageotte from Tacoma of the PCL.									
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS-Recalled 1B Fred McGriff from Durham of the IL. Optioned OF Jonny Gomes to Durham.									
TORONTO BLUE JAYS-Placed 2B Orlando Hudson on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 23. Recalled INF Howie Clark from Syracuse of the IL.									
LOS ANGELES DODGERS-Placed RHP Hideo Nomo on the 15-day DL. Activated OF Dave Roberts from the 15-day DL.									
MONTREAL EXPOS-Activated 1B Nick Johnson from the 15-day DL.									
PITTSBURGH PIRATES-Activated 1B Randall Simon from the 15-day DL. Placed C Humberto Cota on the 15-day DL.									
SAN DIEGO PADRES-Placed OF Ryan Klesko on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 27. Purchased the contract of OF Jon Knott from Portland of the PCL.									
NBA									
NEW ORLEANS HORNETS-Named Byron Scott coach.									
WNBA									
MINNESOTA LYNX-Activated C Vanessa Hayden from the injured list. Placed F Gwen Slaughter on the injured list.									
LOCAL SPORTS									
SEDA BUD LIGHT DART LEAGUE STANDINGS									
MASTERS LEAGUE									
	W	L	Games						
Mhel's Lucky 7	141	97	238						
Oleai White Horse	140	98	238						
Gardenia Strikers	124	114	238						
Gardenia 1001 Proofs	122	116	238						
Aliveria Wild Boyz	119	119	238						
Oleai Celebrities	68	170	238						
RAINBOW A LEAGUE									
Sunset Knights	138	72	210						
Mhel's Lucky 7 Aces	131	79	210						
VFW Major Leak	127	83	210						
Sandy's White Horse	95	115	210						
Aliveria Destroyers	91	119	210						
Tambayan Hustlers	48	162	210						
VOLCANO A LEAGUE									
Da Place Blue Diamond	122	58	180						
Sunset 151 Proofs	102	63	165						
Oleai Beer Chugging Hoz	80	85	165						
Aliveria Wild Boyz	77	88	165						
Bud's Tribes Hearts	31	134	165						
FANIHI DIVISION									
Sunset 80 Proofs	116	79	195						
Gardenia Sunsetters	117	93	210						
Bud's Bullseye	106	89	195						
Samurai	108	102	210						
Bud's Got Puga	75	120	195						
Tambayan Boomboom	61	134	195						
FLAME TREE DIVISION									
Aliveria Invaders	135	75	210						
VFW Boyz Gadai	122	88	210						
Bud's Balite Boys	119	91	210						
Da Place Terminators	100	110	210						
Bud's Super Lolo	91	119	210						
Oleai Green Flash	38	172	210						
TSUNAMI TUE B DIVISION									
Aliveria Java Boyz	132	78	210						
Aliveria Eagle Troops	117	93	210						
Aliveria Balite Boys	116	94	210						
Bud's B tribe Hearts	115	95	210						
Bud's Tiger Claws	64	146	210						
Da Esta Later	60	150	210						
TYPHOON TUE B DIVISION									
Vargas Snipers	139	71	210						
Sunset 101 Proofs	129	81	210						
Bud's Planters	126	84	210						
Da Place Boys	97	113	210						
Gardenia Grillers	83	127	210						
AJ's Beefeater	45	165	210						
C LEAGUE									
Aliveria Bento Boys	131	79	210						
Tambayan Got Beer	121	89	210						
VFW Clubmates	100	110	210						
Bud's Bad Company	96	114	210						
Superfriends	91	119	210						
Vargas Hot Shots	91	119	210						
LADIES LEAGUE									
Da Eliminators	141	69	210						
Bud's Yahoo's	121	89	210						
The Hurricanes	118	92	210						
Sam's Angels	98	112	210						
Da Place Shooters	82	128	210						
Da Senoritas	70	140	210						
MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE									
Jhun/Mara	114	40	154						
Gary/Myrna	96	47	143						
Eagle	87	67	154						
Jackie/John	74	69	143						
Jake/Ruth	69	85	154						
Mary-Lois/Lodrigo	0	154	154						

The Week in Sports



MARK RABAGO

Keeraku's Koko Than with 2004 Inter-Restaurant Basketball League Best Muse Juvy Taitano.

Swingman Alex Ocampo has a basketball for a head in CK Legends win over Dollar Days in the 40-and-over MBL Tuesday.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

Ligaya Paculanang, left, and Cleofe Santos pose at the net after winning the DFS Tennis Micronesia Championships 4.0 women's doubles.



MARK RABAGO

Kana Aikawa gets ready to hit a lob, while partner Jeff Race looks on during the mixed open doubles championship against Todd Montgomery and Amy Ambrosier.

Sports venues packed!

By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

It was a busy week in sports last week.

The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium featured Mayor's Cup action and the championship of the 2004

Mobil Oil Marianas Co-ed Invitational Basketball Tournament on Sunday and play in the 40-and-over Masters Basketball League Tuesday and Thursday.

Outside the basketball venue, baseball and softball were played at the Francisco M.

Palacios and the softball field all throughout the week.

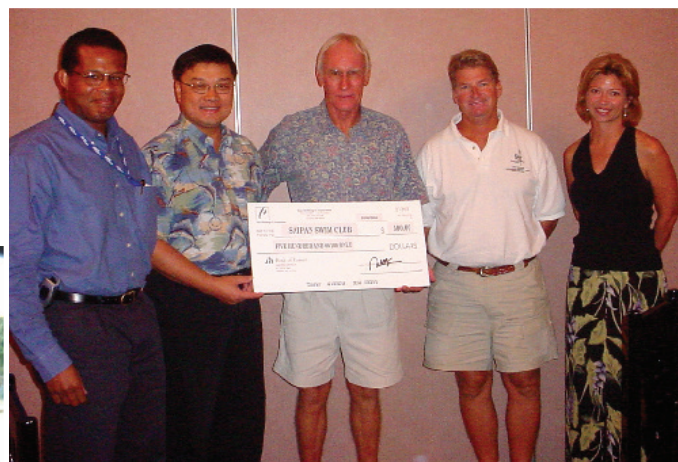
The Pacific Islands Club and American Memorial Park tennis courts also were littered with players competing in the DFS Micronesia Championships.

Last Wednesday also saw

the start of the 2004 Inter-Restaurant Basketball League at the Garapan court. And at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, players from Tinian and Saipan dueled in the 2004 CNMI Friendship Cup Invitational Table Tennis Tournament.

Long-time Saipan Swim Club coach Bill Sakovich, third from left, receives a blown-up \$500 check from Tan Holdings Corp. In photo with Sakovich are, from left, SSC president Tony Mosley, THC executive vice president Jerry Tan, new SSC coach Michael Stewart, and SSC treasurer Sue Knecht.

SHAN SEMAN



MARK RABAGO

Luke Lu Jun, Budhi Gurung and Chang Zhan Xue pose after the 2004 CNMI Friendship Cup Invitational Table Tennis Tournament.



MARK RABAGO

Beverly Igitol of Mobil, center, receives her women's MVP from Mobil's Jojo Dadivas, left, and Toyota's Abner Venus.



Pacifica Pirates players take a break after action in the Little League Sunday.

BRAD E. RUSZALA



BRAD E. RUSZALA

Bill Limes bats for DCCA Brotherhood in the 35-and-over Softball Slow-pitch League.



BRAD E. RUSZALA

D9ers pitcher Jonathan at the mound during their Saipan Major League game against the Pirates.



BRAD E. RUSZALA

Pirates' Joey Dela Cruz swings at a pitch in their 24-4 rout of D9ers Wednesday.



Pacers rip Pistons 83-68 to even series

The Indiana Pacers evened the Eastern Conference finals with their best all-around effort of the series Friday night.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Sports venues packed!

It was a busy week in sports last week.



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36 SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Aqua Resort Club players and their supporters pose with their championship and individual hardware after copping the 2004 Mobil Oil Marianas Co-ed Invitational Basketball Tournament last Sunday.

Aqua Resort splashes to championship

PHOTOS AND TEXT By MARK RABAGO
REPORTER

A championship that took 13 years in the making is what Aqua Resort Club coach Manny Barcial describes his team's title-clinching victory last Sunday in the 2004 Mobil Oil Marianas Co-ed Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Barcial said Aqua Resort endured close-but-no-cigar seasons in the Inter-Hotel and Restaurant Basketball League since 1992 and the Mobil league since 2001 before finally reaching the top of the mountain this year.

"That fact just makes this season's Mobil championship even sweeter. We waited for so long and finally we brought home the championship," said Barcial.

From the start of the season, the soft-spoken coach already believed that his 2004 team has what it takes to go all the way. He said the additions of rookies 6'3" center Dalewin Cortez and 5'11" swingman Marco Garcia and veteran Bogs Dayrit boosted an already potent lineup that included Cris Bojocan and playmaker Rodel Alcantara.

"I saw the potential of this team months back. We had a good balance of big men and outside shooters. We have the speed with our young players and the experience of our veterans. I knew that Aqua Resort was the team to beat, but we still had

to prove that on the basketball court."

Then came opening night, when Barcial and his players got a rude awakening from a Beverly Igitol-led Mobil team. In a game where the lead swung back and forth like a pendulum on the clock, Mobil shocked Aqua Resort, 84-83.

"That loss woke us up big time. It was a nightmare really. If we won that game then we could've gotten the pennant," he said.

Rather than sulk after the stinging reversal, the loss further galvanized the team's resolve and what happened next was nothing short of spectacular with Aqua Resort winning their next eight games in devastating fashion.

First to experience the wrath of the hoteliers was Hyatt (85-63). Aqua Resort continued to pile up the wins decimating Toyota (67-55), Pacific Islands Aviation (84-64), Dai-Ichi Hotel (88-53), and Pacific Development Inc. (91-58), before letting up against Commonwealth Ports Authority (89-78), Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (78-65), and Tan Holdings Corp. (74-60).

After routing its last eight opponents by an average of 20 points a game, Aqua Resort met up again with Dai-Ichi Hotel in the semis. The result was not unexpected as the hoteliers bulldozed past Dai-Ichi, 81-63, and arranged a winner-take-all championship against first round tormentor Mobil.

In the championship, Aqua Resort got a big lift when Igitol went AWOL in the first quarter. When



Playoffs MVP Bogs Dayrit gets his award from Mobil's Jojo Dadvivas, left, and Toyota's Abner Venus.

she did return in the third quarter, Mobil was down by 30 points and although a Jhun Estolas-led rally whittled down the lead, Aqua Resort held on to the win to capture the coveted championship.

Barcial cited the play of his Big Three – Cortez, Garcia and Dayrit – for the win and also cited the support given by ex-Tanapag Warrior Ziddy Johannes and veterans Alcantara and Bojocan.

"Ziddy more than held his own in defense. He also brought down the ball well against Mobil's pressure defense. I couldn't say more about the leadership of Rodel and Cris. Although, they didn't play that much this year, they still led their team," he said.

Aside from the championship, Aqua Resort players also came away with individual awards. Garcia and Cortez were both named in the mythical five selection with the former also taking home Rookie of the Year honors. Dayrit, meanwhile, bagged the MVP of the playoffs after coming up with triple-double performances in the semis and in the finals.

"I was not expecting to win the Playoff MVP. I would like to share this award to my teammates, coach Manny and the management of Aqua Resort. Winning this award is great but nothing tops winning the championship," said Dayrit.

Barcial echoed Dayrit's words in support of management. "I would like to thank management for their all-out support. They always backed us up when we recruit waiters who also are great in playing basketball. Management support was vital in keeping morale high and that's one of the reasons we were able make that run for the title."

The rest of the players of Aqua Resort are Glenn Mark Flores, Ton-Ton Lipa, John Jones, Arnold Arellano, Rome Manzon, Peter De Loyola and lady players Criselda Santos, Day-Ann De Leon, and Antoinette San Nicolas.